THE BULLETIN

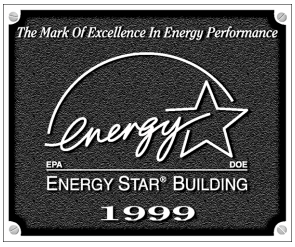
Monthly News from ENERGY STAR Buildings℠ and Green Lights®

June 4, 1999

Introducing the ENERGY STAR® Label for Buildings

The Mark Of Excellence In Energy Performance

Consumers recognize that the ENERGY STAR label on computers, televisions, and other appliances is a symbol of energy efficiency. By looking for the ENERGY STAR Label consumers can choose a product that will lower their energy bills and help prevent air pollution while offering superior product performance. For the first time, a building can be labeled as ENERGY STAR and receive recognition for its superior energy performance. Like the other EPA/DOE initiatives, the ENERGY STAR Label for Buildings represents achievement of energy performance relative to the market. Buildings that are among the top 25 percent nationwide and maintain an indoor environment that conforms to industry standards can now be designated as ENERGY STAR.



Benchmarking Energy Performance

Now building owners and managers can also compare a building's energy performance relative to the market, similar use buildings, or a portfolio of buildings. At the core of the ENERGY STAR Label for Buildings is a simple-to-use Internet-based tool (located at www.epa.gov/buildings) that catalogs all energy uses in a building, calculates an energy intensity, and benchmarks a building's energy performance against similar-use buildings in the United States and provides quick, accurate evaluation of a building's energy performance.

The ENERGY STAR Benchmarking Tool accounts for the drivers of energy use that cannot be controlled, such as location and weather, as well as those drivers that are a reflection of your building's principal business activity, such as occupant density and operating hours. Users simply enter basic information including: building energy consumption; operating characteristics; and physical attributes to obtain a benchmark score on a 0 to 100 scale. Buildings with a score of 75 or higher qualify for the ENERGY STAR label. More importantly, the Statement of Energy Performance, the result of the Benchmarking Tool, offers objective documentation on a building's efficiency. The ENERGY STAR Benchmarking Tool can also help building owners and managers set building energy-performance goals; quantify energy consumption, cost, and pollution savings; and communicate building performance to others.

Recognition for Achieving Excellence

By qualifying a building's performance through ENERGY STAR, an organization can demonstrate that it is serious about energy efficiency and its commitment to the environment. "Every year U.S. businesses pour $25 billion dollars of profits down the drain in the form of wasted energy from inefficient buildings. Energy-efficient buildings not only conserve millions of dollars in savings for businesses, they can also protect the health and environment for all Americans by reducing the pollution that

Web Site Information

ENERGY STAR Buildings℠ and Green Lights®
www.epa.gov/buildings

ENERGY STAR® Label for Buildings
www.epa.gov/buildinglabel

Ally Services and Products (ASAP) Directory
www.epa.gov/asap

EPA Green Lights
an ENERGY STAR program

New Public Partners

EPA would like to congratulate the following public sector Partners who have recently joined City of San Diego as Partners in ENERGY STAR Buildings.

Anne Arundel Community College

Beaufort County Community College

Broward Community College

City of Milwaukee, Department of Public Works

Cleveland Ohio Public Schools

Columbia Public Schools

Columbia University

Freed-Hardeman University

Harrisburg Area Community College

Hofstra University

Juniata College

Madison Metropolitan School District

Middle Tennessee State University

Milwaukee Department of City Development

Muncy Area School District

New Hampshire School Administrative Unit 53

Northampton, City of

Northern Virginia Community College

Pace University

Radford University

School Board of Hernando County

Selinsgrove Area School District

Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority

State of Tennessee

Sumner County School District

The City of Washington DC

contributes to global warming," said Carol M. Browner, Administrator EPA, in a prepared statement.

As an ENERGY STAR Building, the facility is provided an ***ENERGY STAR plaque*** and placed in the ***Registry of ENERGY STAR Buildings*** located on the ENERGY STAR Label for Buildings Web site. Earning designation as an ENERGY STAR Building identifies your facility as a top performing building contributing to an improved environment through reduced air emissions. Your occupants, customers, constituents, and the general public will recognize this accomplishment as a reflection of your organization's commitment to the health of its business, the building's occupants, and the environment.

Getting Started

Approximately 25 percent of office buildings now qualify for the ENERGY STAR Label. It is estimated that buildings of average energy performance

The First ENERGY STAR® Label for Buildings Recipient The City of San Diego, California

The City of San Diego, California is firmly committed to energy-efficient operations. A Partner in EPA's ENERGY STAR Buildings and a participant in DOE's Rebuild America™, San Diego's Ridgehaven Building was recently awarded the first ENERGY STAR Label for Buildings.

San Diego credits its success with the Ridgehaven Building to its team of industry experts from San Diego Gas and Electric, the Electric Power Research Institute, and Public Technology Inc., in addition to numerous consultants, engineers, and architects. With a tight municipal budget, the team decided to use off-the-shelf technologies. Through the use of readily available energy-efficiency upgrades, they were able to reduce energy use at the Ridgehaven Building by 60 percent.

"Our objectives were to walk the talk, to demonstrate we could do with limited resources what we hope other people will do in the community, and to build an environmentally sound water-conserving facility within budget that will save time and money," said Environmental Services Department Director, Richard L. Hayes.

The ENERGY STAR Label is awarded to buildings that score in the top 25 percent of their building class for energy efficiency. San Diego's Ridgehaven Building exceeded these expectations by scoring in the top 10 percent. This efficiency translates into savings of more than $80,000 in energy expenses annually.

Over the next 10 years, the Ridgehaven Building will prevent an estimated 3,540 tons of carbon dioxide, 10 tons of sulfur dioxide, and 9 tons of nitrogen oxides from being released into the atmosphere. These greenhouse gases directly contribute to three major environmental problems: acid rain, smog, and global climate change.

Visit www.epa.gov/buildinglabel for a complete list of ENERGY STAR-labeled buildings.

Ask the Energy Expert

Have a Question?

Get your maintenance, financing, communications, and Partnership questions answered by e-mailing Christie Smith, *Bulletin* Editor, at smith.christie@epamail.epa.gov. Answers to technical questions and other technical tips are also available on the Ally Services and Products (ASAP) Directory on the Web at: www.epa.gov/asap.

Bulletin Subscription Information

The Bulletin is distributed on the first Monday of the month to more than 6,000 ENERGY STAR Buildings and Green Lights participants and friends.

To add or remove your name from the fax distribution list, please call the toll-free Hotline at: **1-888-STAR YES.**

To receive *The Bulletin* electronically, please send an e-mail to: "listserver@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov" and in the message body type in the following:

subscribe energystar your name

You also can remove your name by typing:

unsubscribe energystar

If you have questions, you may e-mail Christie Smith, *Bulletin* Editor, at:

smith.christie@epamail.epa.gov or call the toll-free Hotline.

could qualify by reducing energy use 30 to 35 percent through cost-effective upgrades outlined by ENERGY STAR Buildings. As building managers and owners implement energy-efficiency upgrades, they can use the Benchmarking Tool and the Statement of Energy Performance to record progress toward their goals.

To assess a buildings performance, log on to the ENERGY STAR Label for Buildings Web site at: *www.epa.gov/building*.

Applications Now Being Accepted

Applications are now being accepted for commercial and public office buildings. If your building scores a 75 or greater on the Benchmarking Tool and is verified by a licensed Professional Engineer to maintain current industry standards for indoor environment, then the building qualifies for the ENERGY STAR Label. After receipt of the verified Statement of Energy Performance and an application letter, EPA will register your building and award you an ENERGY STAR plaque. No fees are involved in using the Benchmarking Tool or applying for the Label and all supporting resources are readily available from the Web site.

Later this year additional building types such as K-12 school and retail stores will be eligible to utilize the Benchmarking Tool and apply for the Label. Visit the Web site, www.epa.gov/buildings, to learn more about the ENERGY STAR Label for Buildings and to view a regularly updated registry of ENERGY STAR Buildings.

Upcoming Events

Announcement of First Buildings to Qualify for the ENERGY STAR Label for Buildings at Johnson Control's Tenth Annual Energy Efficiency Forum
June 9, 1999

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy will jointly announce that starting on June 9 they will designate the most energy-efficient buildings which will display the ENERGY STAR Label. Several Buildings will be recognized as the first buildings to earn this ENERGY STAR designation, including the Occidental Chemical Center in Niagra Falls, NY; the Centex Building in Dallas, TX; the Plaza Tower in Denver, CO; the city of San Diego's Ridgehaven Green Building; Lockheed Martin's SLRC building in Orlando, FL; the Landmark II building on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, CA; and the Emigrant Savings Bank building in uptown Manhattan, managed by Johnson Controls.

The event will be held at the National Press Club in Washington DC in conjunction with the "Tenth Annual Energy Efficiency Forum: The Future of Energy Efficiency."

For more information, contact Christie Smith at smith.christie@epamail.epa.gov